

AMENDMENTS

In response to the Office Action, and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), please enter the following clean set of claims in substitution for all pending claims with the same numbers. Amended claims are denoted as such in parenthetical following the claim number. A marked-up version of the amended claims is appended hereto.

Clean Version of Claims

- 1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
1. (Amended) A method for making a molded article, wherein said article includes a substantially vertical peripheral wall portion and a transverse outer edge portion, comprising:
- (a) heating a sheet of plastic material having a mold side and an exposed side to a first temperature, said first temperature being consistent with forming said sheet of plastic material in a thermoforming process;
- (b) placing said mold side of said sheet of plastic material over a mold, said mold having a first surface for forming said substantially vertical peripheral wall portion and further having a second surface substantially perpendicular to said first surface for forming said outer edge portion;

- 10 (c) applying a vacuum to said mold or compressed gas to said exposed side of said sheet
11 of plastic material such that air pressure on said mold side is less than the air
12 pressure on said exposed side;
- 13 (d) forming a ridge along at least a part of said outer edge portion, said ridge being of a
14 substantially uniform height;
- 15 (e) cooling said sheet of plastic material to a second temperature, said second
16 temperature being consistent with said sheet of plastic material retaining its
17 molded shape;
- 18 (f) releasing said vacuum from said mold or said compressed gas from said exposed
19 side;
- 20 (g) removing said sheet of plastic material from said mold; and
- 21 (h) after removing said sheet of plastic material from said mold, cutting said sheet of
22 plastic material along said ridge to release said article from said sheet.

1 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) further includes forming said ridge
2 about the entirety of said outer edge portion at a substantially coequal distance from said wall
3 portion.

1 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said mold includes a steel rule and said
2 ridge is formed over said steel rule.

1 4. The method according to claim 2, wherein there is provided after step (h) a channel
2 edge of a substantially uniform width about the periphery of said article.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

1 *Sub B* 11. (Amended) A method for making a molded article, wherein said article includes
2 an outer edge portion, comprising:

3 (a) molding an article having an outer edge portion from a sheet of plastic material in a
4 mold, said outer edge portion having a ridge along at least a part of said outer
5 edge portion, said ridge being of a substantially uniform height;

6 (b) removing said article from said mold; and

7 (c) after removing said article from said mold, cutting said article along said ridge to
8 release said article from said sheet of plastic material such that said ridge
9 defines the outer edge of said article.

1 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein step (a) further includes molding said
2 ridge about the entirety of said outer edge portion.

1 13. The method according to claim 11, wherein said mold includes a steel rule and said
2 ridge is formed over said steel rule.

1 14. (New) A method for making a molded article from a sheet of thermoforming plastic,
2 wherein said article includes a continuous outer edge portion, comprising:

- 3 (a) heating a sheet of plastic material having a mold side and an exposed side to a first
4 temperature, said first temperature being consistent with forming said sheet of plastic
5 material in a thermoforming process;
- 6 (b) placing said mold side of said sheet of plastic material over a mold, said mold having
7 a steel rule of substantially uniform height positioned about the periphery of said
8 mold;
- 9 (c) applying a vacuum to said mold or compressed gas to said exposed side of said sheet
10 of plastic material such that air pressure on said mold side is less than the air pressure
11 on said exposed side;
- 12 (d) forming a ridge over said steel rule along the entirety of said outer edge portion such
13 that said plastic material is substantially weakened along said ridge to facilitate a
14 trimming operation;
- 15 (e) cooling said sheet of plastic material to a second temperature, said second
16 temperature being consistent with said sheet of plastic material retaining its molded
17 shape;
- 18 (f) releasing said vacuum from said mold or said compressed gas from said exposed
19 side;
- 20 (g) removing said sheet of plastic material from said mold; and